Region 6 Weekly Update

8-30-2018 Hot Topics

Eagle Ford Shale, Texas

By September 4, EPA intends to send "Opportunity to Confer" letters to five companies for potential violations identified during helicopter flyovers of the Eagle Ford Shale in May. The companies that will receive the letter represent 64 of the 124 sites with observed emissions. EPA is requesting that each company meet with us to discuss potential permit violations and corrective actions that have been or will be taken, and potential settlement options. This effort has been coordinated with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Redesignation for Ozone Air Quality Standards, Houston, Texas

By September 5, the TCEQ commissioners will consider proposing a Houston area redesignation/maintenance plan State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for the 1-hour and 1997 8-hour ozone standards. EPA's previous approval was overturned in a February court decision. It is expected that TCEQ will request "parallel processing" of the SIP revision.

NESHAP/NSPS Delegation, Albuquerque, New Mexico

On September 6, EPA will be meeting with Isleta Pueblo and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) regarding the proposed NPDES permit for the main wastewater treatment plant serving Albuquerque, NM. ABCWUA is particularly concerned about certain limitations driven by the downstream Isleta Pueblo WQS.

Bird Creek, Osage County, Oklahoma

By September 10, EPA staff will conduct another data download. EPA staff continues to process the data from the in-stream monitoring network from data collected during the week of August 13th and is undergoing additional data quality control evaluations.

Texas Gulf Terminals, Texas

By September 11, EPA anticipates providing a completeness status letter to Texas Gulf Terminals on its Title V operating permit application.

Major Decisions and Events

Texas Regional Haze BART FIP, Texas

The proposal to affirm our October 2017 rulemaking was published in the Federal Register on Monday, August 27. The comment period will close on October 26, and the public hearing will be held on September 26 in Austin.

SO2 Designations Round 2 Sources (Luminant/Vistra), Texas

Luminant and Texas filed petitions for reconsideration of the SO2 non-attainment designations for areas surrounding the Big Brown, Monticello, and Martin Lake power plants. EPA responded that we will revisit those designations in a future rulemaking. Luminant has shut down two of the three sources. OAQPS anticipates proposing an action in September 2018.

Arkansas Regional Haze Phase II SIP Revision, Arkansas

By the end of September, EPA will propose action on the final Regional Haze Phase II SIP revision submitted by ADEQ.

SO2 Redesignation Request, Independence County, Arkansas

By [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://11"], EPA intends to propose action on a May 11, 2018 request from Governor Hutchinson of Arkansas for redesignation of Independence County from unclassifiable to unclassifiable/attainment based on new modeling. This is expected to be the first such action in the country.